

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ASBH
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CONTROL OF SOURCES
OF IONIZING RADIATION

2014 REGULATION PACKAGE

The Radiation Control Section has initiated the process for the revision of the Arkansas State Board of Health Rules and Regulations for Control of Sources of Ionizing Radiation. The Section regulates the possession and use of x-ray machines, accelerators, and radioactive material in the State of Arkansas. Revisions to x-ray machine and accelerator regulations are drawn primarily from the nationally recognized Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors' Suggested State Regulations. Revisions to radioactive material regulations are driven by our agreement with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The State of Arkansas, as an Agreement State, is expected to have regulations that are compatible with NRC regulations. In order to maintain this compatibility, one NRC regulation amendment (as well as some general clean-up) is being addressed, as listed below. Proposed revisions are as follows:

- Revisions to definitions of “construction” and “commencement of construction” due to NRC regulation amendment RATS 2011-2, “Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Materials Licensees”
- Revisions to Section 3, “Standards for Protection Against Radiation,” concerning Appendix A to Section 3, Appendix B to Section 3, RH-1210., RH-1303., and the RH-1400’s (deletion of a table and related regulations that have been superseded by other current regulations, in order to maintain compatibility with the NRC; other general clean-up)
- Removal of individual letter/number designations from definitions throughout the Regulations; general clean-up of some definitions
- Revision of current accelerator licensing and radiation safety requirement regulations including Section 6, “Particle Accelerators,” and related regulations in Part I, “Radiation Safety Requirements for Industrial Radiographic Operations,” and Part J, “Radiation Safety Requirements for Wireline Service Operations and Subsurface Tracer Studies,” of Section 3 (general clean-up and clarification; addition of licensing requirements comparable to those used with radioactive material licenses; updating of radiation safety provisions; addition of survey meter operability and calibration requirements previously handled in licensing)
- Addition of a new Section 11, “Therapeutic Radiation Machines,” that will address therapeutic uses of x-ray machines (< 500 kV), medical accelerators (≥ 500 kV/keV), and electronic brachytherapy devices. The new Section will update and make more succinct existing requirements found in RH-1607., RH-1608., and the RH-5500’s. These sections will be deleted.
- Revisions to the initial registration requirements and reporting of changes regarding registration of x-ray machines and electronic brachytherapy devices (registration required prior to operation of the machine/device, designation of a Radiation Safety Officer, notification of the Department prior to changes that render registration no longer accurate)

Based on comments received during the prior Public Comment Period, revisions are being proposed that address the following:

- Initial registration requirements and reporting of changes regarding registration of x-ray machines (RH-21., RH-23., and RH-26.)

The Section has taken this opportunity to also revise the following:

- Matching the proposed RH-5407.h. to that of the proposed RH-10300.a.4.B. regarding the contents of radiation protection survey reports based on the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements recommendations;
- Changing the record keeping retention period for dosimetry system calibrations from the proposed duration of the license/registration to five years (RH-5407.p. and RH-10300.c.3.) to be commensurate with the retention period for full calibration records; and
- Cleaning up the designation of licensee vs. registrant in the proposed RH-10304.c.; paragraphs b., g., and i. of RH-10307.; and RH-10308.a.